

Appl. No. 10/826,782
Amdt. dated April 4, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 8, 2007

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0029] FIG. 19D is a cross-sectional view of the retainer taken along line [[A—A]] 19D—19D of FIG. 19C;

Please replace the paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the present invention comprises a fall protection system 10 for protecting workers while they are building a retaining wall 12 made from blocks 13. As will be apparent, the fall protection system 10 comprises a scaffolding system which, using brackets and attachment assemblies ~~of the invention as described below~~, is secured to the wall 12. Upon completion of the wall 12, the scaffolding is removed from the wall.

Please replace the paragraph [0037] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037] Furthermore, referring to Figs. 4A-B and 6A-D, multiple uprights 16 may be attached at their ends to build longer upright assemblies 15 by placing a coupling tube 36 in the ends 24 of two uprights 16. The coupling tubes 36 comprise square tube that has been compressed at its ends 38 such that the tube is narrower in one dimension at [[it]] its ends than it is at its center 40. For example, in Fig. 6C, a coupling tube 36 originally having a outside dimensions of 1.477 inches square, is compressed in one direction at [[it]] its ends such that one outside dimension is reduced to 1.416 inches. However, the center 40 of the coupling tube 36 is compressed very little, if any, as shown in Fig. 6D. In this manner, coupling tubes 36 may be easily

inserted into the ends 24 of the uprights 16 initially and provide an increasingly tighter fit as they are inserted farther in to the upright 16. The coupling tube 36 further includes a pair of coupling pin holes 42 and a spring pin hole 44. The coupling pin holes 44 align with holes 22 of the uprights such that gravity pins 46 (Fig. 7A-C) may be inserted through the coupling tube 36 and the upright 16 to prevent them from becoming unattached. The spring pin hole 44 also aligns with a hole 22 of the upright 16 and has a spring loaded pin (not shown) disposed within the hole 44.

Please replace the paragraph [0038] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0038] Referring to Figs. 7A-C, the gravity pin 46 comprises a rod bent into the configuration shown. The pin includes an L-shaped mounting section 46a having a portion 46c which extends through the holes 22 and 42 of the upright 16 and coupling tube 36, respectively, and a short leg 46d which extends generally perpendicularly from one end of the portion 46c. A U-shaped section 46b extends from an end of the short leg 46d and is in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the mounting section 46a. The U-shaped section 46b comprises a pair of short legs 46e,f joined by a section 46g. The U-shaped section leg 46e extends the mounting portion leg 46d. As best seen in FIG. 7C, the leg 46f is parallel to, and longer than, the leg 46e. Hence, the leg 46f crosses the plane of the mounting section 46a. The pin 46 is inserted into the upright 16 in the position shown in the bottom of FIGS. 7A and 7B and is allowed to drop by the force of gravity to the position shown in the top of FIGS. 7A and 7B. In the locked position, the U-shaped lock section extends around three sides of the upright 16 to prevent the pin

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46 from being removed from the upright 16 without lifting the pin back to the "insert" position. As such, the pin 46 cannot accidentally be removed from the upright 16 by vibration or other accident accidental means.

Please replace the paragraph [0039] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0039] A cross-brace 18 shown in FIG. 8 comprises two lengths of rod 48 joined at their centers by a pin 50. ~~At the ends of the~~ The rods 48 have are flattened end portions 52 having a hole 54 therein. The cross-braces 18 are attached to the uprights 16 by placing the toggle studs 26 of the uprights 16 through the holes 54 of the cross-brace 18.

Please replace the paragraph [0049] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0049] When the wall is completed the protection system 10 can be disassembled and removed from the wall 12. All that will remain are the base plates 14 and the brackets retainers 82 located between the back of the wall and the earth.

Please replace the paragraph [0051] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0051] The attachment assembly also includes a retainer 110 (FIGS. 19A-D) which is provided to be positioned on the back side of the retaining wall to receive the strap 102. The retainer 110 includes a body 112 having a top surface 114, bottom surface 116, and side surfaces 118. A front face 120 is formed at the front of the body 112. As seen, the front face 120 forms a flange which extends around three sides of the body 112. If desired, the front face 120 could have an area equal to the area defined by the front of the body (i.e. the face 120 would not define a flange).

Alternatively, the front face 120 could form a flange on only two sides of the body or on all four sides of the body. The retainer includes an opening 122 in the front face 120 and an opening 124 on the back surface 126 of the body. The front and back openings 122 and 124 are sized to permit the strap 102 to pass through the retainer 110. As shown, the back opening is generally oval in shape, and the front opening is generally rectangular. If desired, both openings could be of the same size and shape. Lastly, the retainer includes slots 128 at the back of the top and bottom body surfaces 114 and 116. As seen in FIG. 19D, the back surfaces 130, 131 of the two slots form an angle \square relative to the back surface of the body. The angle \square is about 5° - 10° , and preferably, about 8° . Also, as seen, slots 128 in the top and bottom surfaces are formed such that their respective back surfaces 130 and 131 are co-linear.

Please replace the paragraph [0054] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0054] The retainer 110 is designed for use with a closed wall system. An alternative retainer 110' (FIGS. 20-21) is provided to enable the attachment system 100 to be used with an open wall system. As is known, in a closed wall system, the front faces of the blocks are solid, to provide a solid or uninterrupted front surface to the wall. In an open wall system, on the other hand, the blocks 13' are open along their front and back faces, and may even be open along their top surfaces. Hence, blocks 13' can be in the form of a tube or can be generally U-shaped. As is known, an open wall system allows for vegetation to be planted in the openings on the wall. The retainer 110' is in the form of a C-channel having top and bottom surfaces 150 and 152 and a back wall

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154. A slot 156 through which the strap 102 can pass is formed at the bottom of the back wall 154. The back wall 154 is sized such that the inner surface of the back wall (i.e., the distance from the bottom of the top surface 150 to the top of the bottom surface 152 is greater than the width of the block wall, as seen in FIG. 21 FIG. 21). Hence, a gap will be formed between the bottom of the block and the top of the retainer bottom surface 152. This gap is sized to allow the strap 102 to pass between the block retainer bottom surface and through the retainer slot 156. The retainer 110' is otherwise used substantially in the same was as the retainer 110, as described above.